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PROGRAM NBC Nightly News STATION WRC TV  
NBC Network

DATE October 28, 1981 6:30 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT CIA Spying on Americans

JOHN CHANCELLOR: The Administration's plan to allow the CIA to spy on Americans is having a tough time in the Congress. First, the Senate Intelligence Committee came out against it, with Barry Goldwater leading the opposition. Today there was to have been a hearing before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, but it was cancelled.

Carl Stern has the reason why.

CARL STERN: The House Subcommittee abruptly cancelled its hearing because the CIA and the Justice Department refused to send anyone to testify. They said it would be inappropriate. Chairman Don Edwards complained the CIA wouldn't even give the committee a copy of the proposed presidential order which would let the CIA spy on Americans.

REP. DON EDWARDS: This is a matter for the American people to look at. This is a very radical document.

STERN: This copy of the proposed order obtained by NBC News shows the CIA would be permitted to influence and infiltrate domestic organizations merely by declaring such activity to be essential to achieving lawful purposes. Carter Administration intelligence expert Kenneth Bass, who had hoped to testify, said the CIA seemed to be calling the shots.

KENNETH BASS: They would be permitted to infiltrate American businesses, American newspapers, academic institutions, political organizations. This order, for the first time in the history of the CIA, going back before 1947, would authorize CIA with the specific authorization of the President of the United States, to run a domestic spy organization.